

Grow Healthy, Grow Strong

Newsletter Issue #16 - June 2024



Photo: Mother with hearing impairment with her translator during the parent group discussion in Zone 4, Rieit Ward, Sinivit LLG, Pomio District



COMING NEXT MONTH

This coming July marks the start of Year 3 of Grow's project implementation plan, which is our final year of operation. The construction works to improve the Rabaul airport strip has meant that some of the project team based in Melbourne have been unable to travel to support the project on-site. In the week beginning 29 July, Grow's technical leads Lisa Davidson and Shan Huang, will travel to Kokopo and they will facilitate several days of planning, stakeholder engagement workshops and another health worker training. We are hoping to work with our new team and collaborate with all our partners and stakeholders to ensure a smooth, successful and sustainable way forward for the remainder of the project.

GROW PROJECT UPDATE

The month of June saw one health worker training, three parent group discussions and our regular Nutrition Advisory Group and Community Nutrition Advisory Group meetings occur.

The health worker training topic was on the Importance of Immunization where participants received a refresher on the immunization schedule and each of the vaccines. At the completion of the workshop, health workers were able to make plans on how to improve vaccination rates at their facilities and how these could link up with nutrition advice and guidance. This was a collaborative effort between the two Australian National Cooperation Programs at Burnet.

The last few parent groups were held in the Rieit Ward this month with over 50 parents participating in total, including a high number of fathers engaging with the content. Since our disability inclusion training a few months ago, we have seen an increase of attendance by people in the community, living with disabilities. Three people with hearing impairment were in attendance this month and we are pleased to see the community welcoming and including these important voices in our discussions about health and nutrition.

Our regular advisory committee meetings were held with high attendance, allowing local ownership and guidance on project activities. We are thankful for the active discussions from these stakeholders in our continued pursuit of co-design and project implementation.

COMING UP IN JULY

The GROW project is pleased to welcome three new staff members to the team: Anita Owa, Delma Burangat, and Mary Kuam. Anita and Delma will work on the Health Worker component of the project, supporting and facilitating trainings and site visits. Mary will assist Onawuta with the Community Engagement component of the project as we plan to expand this element to more districts.

We take this opportunity to thank Thalia Wat for her contribution to the Grow project. Thalia will complete her role early July. Thalia has been a long standing staff member at the Burnet Institute over many years, across numerous projects. Thank you Thalia for your efforts and we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours!

Grow Team 2024/2025 (L-R):
Onawuta Kesuwao - Senior Project Officer (Community Engagement)
Mary Kuam - Project Officer (Community Engagement)
Anita Owa - Senior Project Officer (Health Worker Engagement)
Delma Burangat - Project Officer (Health Worker Engagement)



Photo: Health care workers and GROW team at the Immunization training

